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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Marketing Services
Washington 25, D. C.

April 19, 1945

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL NUTRITION COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING TO CONSIDER THE FOOD SITUATION AND ORGANIZATION PLANS FOR
THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1945, AT WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 6, 1945

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MR. M. L. WILSON (Chairman): It has been about six months since we had a meeting of this committee as such. You will recall that the Interdepartmental Nutrition Coordinating Committee was set up to be composed of all agencies in the Government having a definite interest in nutrition, although they did not all have field programs in nutrition education that directly reached the people. When it became apparent that WFA was going to be set up, what was originally the Office of Defense Health and Welfare Service was moved to WFA and instead of the WFA administrator setting up a division to deal with the housewives of the country, primarily in connection with feeding their families, he called on all agencies having programs in nutrition to work together to carry out that function for him. You remember that last year we had meetings every three months to keep up with the food situation. We felt in January that it was not necessary to have a meeting because the food situation was not acute and we recognized the necessity of saving the time of the Committee members. Miss Dreis has tried to keep you informed by memoranda from time to time.

This morning we have several matters to take up with you. The first has to do with the general food situation as it is today. We asked Mr. Arthur Browne, Acting Chief of the Civilian Food Requirements Branch, Office of Marketing Services, to come and make any brief over-all statement that he wishes to, and I know he will welcome any questions any of you would like to ask, relative to the present situation and anticipated supplies for the next three months.

MR. ARTHUR BROWNE: As Mr. Wilson said, I don't propose to take up a lot of time going over the food situation because you have all been reading about it in the newspapers. Civilian supplies of some of the major foods will be a somewhat lower level than several months, and less than at the same time last year. This applies to meats, fats, oils, and sugar. Offsetting this, will be larger supplies of milk, eggs, cereals, and some fresh fruits and vegetables. Fluid milk is in larger supply than last year and seasonally larger than last month. The supply of eggs is better than it has been and we are consuming more than ever before. Cereals are plentiful and the prospects are that we will use a record amount of them in the next three to nine months as civilians.

I think we can spend the rest of the time most profitably by discussing any questions you have on any of the major items of food.

MR. WILSON: Does anyone have any questions about the sugar situation? This is the time of year when we are thinking about sugar for canning. Mr. Browne is there anything new in addition to the statements that have already been made on the sugar situation.

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MR. BROWNE: Cuban sugar production is deteriorating, according to latest estimates. We are not sure of two things in this connection: (1) the total amount of Cuban sugar production this year; and (2) the amount to be made available to our Allies. These questions will largely determine the amount we will have for U. S. civilians, since the allotment for the armed services is pretty well determined.

MR. WILSON: Last night I attended a local community Victory Garden meeting as a Victory gardener, not in any official capacity. The question that was imminent was whether there was going to be frost last night. They agreed that if we had frost, then the sugar supply would be plentiful.

MISS HESLITINE: I would like to ask Mr. Browne whether the attempt to introduce soya has met with any degree of success?

MR. BROWNE: We still have a long way to go to use the products that can be produced.

MISS HOGAN: Are the products available in the local stores?

MR. BROWNE: Generally, yes. I think the best way to increase the supply on the market is for the housewives to keep asking for the products they are interested in and that will create a demand so the grocer will want to stock soya products.

MR. PIERSON: I would like to ask about the supply of plate for tin cans for this year.

MR. BROWNE: The present WPB order governing use of tinplate for cans is most liberal, in fact more liberal than at any time during the war. I understand there is some fear, however, that during the third quarter we may have difficulty in securing the amount of plate allotted because of unexpected demands from the military.

MISS LOUGHEAD: I understand that the zinc supply for jar lids has been cut.

MR. BROWNE: During the war there has been an effort to shift away from the zinc cap, because of zinc shortage. I believe that in recent years the largest production has been of other than the zinc type.

MISS BIRDSEYE: I believe that this year there will probably be a large proportion of zinc closures used. Jars with metal bands and glass tops have caused difficulty in canning and housewives are going back to what they know most about and like better.

MISS GRIFFITH: Would you like to tell us about the plans under way for the meat situation.

MR. BROWNE: There will have to be a lot of publicity about meat. After last year's high consumption of 150 pounds of meat per capita, we are faced with a possible 115 pounds per capita for this second quarter. The demand (if it could be met) would probably be for about 165 pounds. The principal reasons for the reduction are the smaller pig crop and the high military demands for meat. In the second quarter of this year, even the military demand has been cut owing to the inability to meet all requirements. The prospects now are that during April we civilians will have 119 or 120 pounds per capita (annual rate) but in May and June the amount will be smaller, making an average of 115 pounds for the quarter.

MR. LEUKHARDT: Is there any long-range prediction of how long this will last?

MR. BROWNE: That is difficult to answer primarily because we are not sure what the military will need. A seasonal increase in slaughter is expected this fall. If the military demands persist we probably will continue at the rate of about 115 to 120 pounds per capita for the year. We might even drop below 115 pounds during the third quarter.

MISS BIRDSEYE: Does this mean that every civilian will not get his 115 pounds of meat?

MR. BROWNE: You must realize that these figures are based on wholesale dressed weight and include meat from farm slaughter and slaughter in non-federally inspected plants. Out of 115 pounds of meat, only about 72 pounds are federally inspected, and consequently the wholesale supply in urban areas far from producing centers may be as low as about 72 pounds per person annually. Reduce that amount from wholesale dressed weight to retail weight and you begin to see how much is available.

MISS GRIFFITH: Do the hotels and restaurants get most of that?

MR. BROWNE: I don't see how they can. Hotel supply houses are limited in the amount of meat they are permitted to handle and restaurants are limited by the number of ration points they are allotted. The only way a hotel can get more is to go into the black market.

MISS BI That means that you will have only about a pound of meat a week per per tail cut, some of which includes bone. Is USDA going to put out anything explaining this?

MR. BROWNE: The Department has not done this so far and I don't know that they plan to do so.

MISS BIRDSEYE: Is there going to be any statement explaining the distribution of meat? Will the whole picture of the amount that goes to hotels, black markets, supplies for port cities being shut off because of congestion of shipments abroad - will all of this be explained? Consumers need the whole picture, not just one factor. For example, if the true picture has 15 parts, we need all of them at once to understand the whole situation.

MR. BROWNE: I expect that when announcement is made of the new plans being developed to improve meat distribution, there will be a comprehensive story of the reasons for the change. Already OPA has taken steps through rationing to decrease the amount of meats for hotels, night clubs, restaurants and similar establishments. OPA has not been able to eliminate black market activities.

MISS BIRDSEYE: It would be helpful if a good newspaper man could be turned loose by a good newspaper in a good sized city and allowed to investigate the situation.

MR. BROWNE: The Government can't stop the black market until the people stop patronizing it knowingly.

MISS GRIFFITH: How does the civilian know that the hotel or restaurant he is eating in is patronizing the black market?

DR. SERRILL: How can the civilian know that he is getting black market meat? We recently had a grocer in our neighborhood who was convicted of dealing in black market meat and his customers did not know that he was handling black market products.

MR. BROWNE: First, the meat should carry a grade stamp. In addition to this the butcher is required to post his ceiling prices by grades. A comparison of the price charged with the ceiling price will indicate price violations and a check with the ration point chart will indicate violations in this respect.

MISS BIRDSEYE: It seems that this is a very practical discussion. If we, as teachers, are to work with housewives who get about a pound or less of meat per person a week, we should plan our teaching accordingly. We should plant proteins to supplement animal protein. It would be good for the public to have a frank discussion of just how the situation is and then we can all work together.

MR. BROWNE: There is considerable variation around the country regarding the availability of meat. Where you have both locally slaughtered and federally inspected meat the supply might be two or more pounds per week per person. However, in urban areas on the coast it is likely to be as low as 1 to 1½ pounds per week per capita.

MISS BIRDSEYE: Is it possible for non-Governmental inspected meat to travel across State lines.

MR. BROWNE: Licensed public carriers are permitted to accept for interstate shipment only meat that is federally inspected or that has been exempted from such inspection. Farmer dressed meats are exempted and in some cases retail butchers and retail dealers in meat products who sell only small quantities of meat may apply for and be granted exemption from the inspection requirement for interstate shipment. However, the volume of such meat is so small and the movement so restricted, it is generally considered that only federally inspected meat may be shipped in interstate commerce.

MR. NILSON: Is it that a packer must have Federal inspection if he slaughters more than 51 head of meat?

MR. BROWNE: War Food Order 75-2 specifies that any Class II slaughterer who slaughters more than 51 head of cattle producing Army style beef per week shall apply for Federal inspection and thereby become subject to the set-aside requirements of Federally inspected slaughterers. Also, at the present time non-inspected slaughtering establishments are permitted to collect the subsidy payment on only 100 percent of the number of cattle and 50 percent of the number of hogs they slaughtered in the corresponding period of 1944. These measures were adopted in order to increase the proportion of the livestock slaughtered under Federal inspection.

MR. WILSON: This discussion indicates that meat is the number one problem in the food situation. I am sure that Miss Dreis and Miss Vaughn and those in the Nutrition Planning Committee will keep in close touch with Mr. Browne and OPA to have all the information they can get on this subject.

We must now pass on to other items on the agenda. This committee is made up of people in the Government Departments interested in nutrition who do not have active educational programs in the field. State and local committees have carried out the work of nutrition education during the war. Miss Hessel-tine is chairman of the Planning Committee, which is really an executive committee of this group. It is composed of agencies having field representatives. They have endeavored to serve you as best they can. Miss Vaughn, who has charge of the State committees and five field consultants, will give us a statement of what they are doing.

MISS VAUGHN: Before I start on the State committees I think we should call your attention to the March issue of Consumer Education Service, a monthly publication of the American Home Economics Association. This particular number is devoted to civilian food in wartime. I think it is a good example of coordination at the Federal level. The Nutrition Planning Committee felt that there was a need for getting materials of this kind into the hands of individuals and groups working with homemakers. Mrs. Howe of the American Home Economics Association, worked with the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, USDA, and the Office of Marketing Services, WPA, and as a result this issue went out with the April Nutrition News Letter. You may have copies if you wish them.

Nearly two years ago Mr. Wilson told the State committees that executive secretaries could be assigned to them if they wished. As a result, 45 executive secretaries were requested. Actually 39 are now on duty, but 45 have been assigned to State committees and to committees in New York City, Chicago, the southern part of California, and the San Francisco bay area.

Our purpose is to help State committees make their programs more effective. Five field consultants work with the State committees. While executive secretaries are responsible to committee chairmen, our consultants work with them. The Nutrition News Letter, a monthly publication, is our house organ that goes to chairmen of State and local committees and to all members of the State committees.

We feel that State committees have accomplished much during the last year. One result of their coordinated effort has been the enactment of State legislation on enriched white flour and bread. Bills have been initiated or sponsored by nutrition committees. We do not have a final report, as this legislation is in various stages of enactment. We do know that 23 States have worked on the enrichment program, and that legislation has been passed in 16 States. Five of the southeastern States have passed bills on the enrichment of degenerated corn products.

Many State nutrition committees are coordinating their efforts on Victory Gardens, home food preservation, school lunches, and workshops for training lunchroom workers. A number of committees are cooperating on nutrition education workshops for teachers in the elementary grades, to help them incorporate nutrition in the public school curriculum. Several States have been successful in getting nutrition education introduced in the parochial schools.

One of the most important and difficult accomplishments of State committees has been to get local committees to discover their problems, based on individual community needs. However, some of the States have not been able to find out just what their needs are. Some States have been making dietary and food habits

surveys. Dr. Wilkins has been working with many of the State committees, and he will tell you about his work.

State nutrition committees assume responsibility for the broad over-all plans for the nutrition program in the State. Local committees interpret needs and plan action programs for their own communities. It is here that executive secretaries have been able to make the program more effective. State chairmen have not been able to travel and help the local committees ferret out their needs.

This flip-flop exhibit on the table contains illustrations of the accomplishments of some of the nutrition committees. One is on a state-wide food preservation program; another on the introduction of a new food (soybeans) in a county; and a third shows how the committee in Ascension Parish, Louisiana, tied its nutrition program into a family life program, using the Census figures to determine needs. These three case histories and the others in the flip-flop exhibit show the type of coordinated programs that State and local committees are carrying on. Staff meetings held during the past months have pointed out that much has been accomplished by executive secretaries and by individuals working together on nutrition committees to make people nutrition conscious.

MR. WILSON: In the Nutrition Programs Branch we have a partnership responsibility heading up the organization. Dr. Sebrell is responsible for the health angle of the work and I am going to ask him to tell us about the health situation.

DR. SEBRELL: There is a continuing interest on the part of the medical profession in nutrition and nutritional deficiency diseases. Interest is increasing in early diagnosis of these diseases. Public health officers are now realizing that nutrition is part of their responsibility and they wish to do something about it. Nutrition is being taught in medical schools. Enrichment legislation has been undertaken by many States and the support given by public health officers has helped to secure enactment.

Dr. Wilkins' nutrition clinic demonstrations have helped to bring the public health officers into the program. I am going to ask Dr. Wilkins to tell you something about his work.

DR. WILKINS: About two years ago when Mr. Wilson was preparing for district meetings of State Extension Directors in New York City, Memphis, Chicago, and San Francisco, he asked us to put on a nutrition clinic demonstration at each meeting. Since that time State health departments have been interested in having similar demonstrations. So far, 57 nutrition clinic demonstrations have been held. Requests for similar help have come in from all but 3 States. Requests are increasing in number from medical schools and we try to meet these requests when we are in the particular area concerned.

Even with our limited facilities we have found different problems in different regions of the country. About 25 years ago there was great interest in the use of iodine for the treatment and prevention of goiter, particularly in the Great lakes and Northwestern Regions. For example, in Utah in 1924 a study was made of the prevalence of goiter. In one county (Emery) the results showed that 83½ percent of the population was affected. Other counties in the State showed varying degrees down to 26 percent in the county showing the lowest incidence. We inspected groups of high school girls, ages 15 to 18, in several areas of the Northwest and were surprised at the amount of goiter found. Several girls had never heard of iodized salt, much less used it. This is an old problem that has been with us for a long time. But in the past few years interest has lagged in many goiterous areas. This is an example of the rise and fall of interest in certain problems over a period of years. Several State nutrition committees are trying to do something about it now.

I believe all of you know of the prevalence of anemia in the States of the Atlantic Coastal Plain. Numerous limited studies have been made in certain sections, but we need a comprehensive regional or sectional study. In the South we have seen large numbers of anemic children. In the Southwestern Region we found evidence of widespread vitamin C deficiency. Therapeutic tests were made in Corpus Christi on children who had spongy gums. Orange juice was given twice a day for a week; at the end of that time many of the gums had cleared up or improved. Seventy-five percent of the children in one El Paso School in a Mexican section were apparently short of vitamin C.

In Spokane, Washington we found a 13-year old boy and his 12-year old sister who had very badly swollen bleeding gums. As a therapeutic test, they were given four glasses of orange juice a day for one week. Even though these were among

the worst gums I had seen, they cleared up completely.

Sometimes we are so conscious of infection that we lose sight of what is back of the infection. The lack of vitamin C, riboflavin, or nicotinic acid may pave the way for an infected mouth, even trench mouth. In our work we have to depend on rapid inspection and usually have little opportunity for laboratory work in connection with anemia or rickets.

Diet records for even one day have been helpful in getting the dietary pattern. In El Paso physical inspections suggested that there was a lack of vitamins C and A and diet records pointed toward the same conclusion.

More and more State health departments are attempting to define their nutrition problems. All have been impressed by the way the different agencies serving the community have been pulling together in a cooperative effort. This is certainly the trend at the present time.

MISS SYBIL SMITH: What do you think about the reports that people can get along on much smaller amounts of vitamin C than recommended by the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council?

DR. WILKINS: Many of the tests are right in the way they are done. The trouble is in the interpretation. In one study I believe it was reported that 16 mg. of ascorbic acid will prevent scurvy. We have found children getting only 10 or 11 mg. per day. As I understand the recommendations of the Food and Nutrition Board, 70 - 75 mg. of ascorbic acid per day was recommended not with the thought of just preventing scurvy, but to meet physiological needs and to give a satisfactory margin of safety.

MISS SMITH: I hope that enough publicity will be given to your findings.

DR. SEBRELL: I think we should accept the recommendations of the National Research Council until we find something better. Great Britain has 30 mg. of vitamin C and they don't have scurvy. It boils down to the question - what is scurvy? You can make any gum bleed if you rub it long enough with a hard substance, or you can make no gum bleed by gently rubbing it with a different substance and many people are ignoring this fact. Much of this hangs on the question of early diagnosis. Many years will have to be spent on it before there is sufficient proof and a sufficient number of observations. You can see that the health officers can make a real contribution by defining the nutritional deficiency diseases in any given community. They are interested in it and we hope we will be able to give them more help. The job is to determine what are the serious problems; their correction can be a potent force in nutrition education. I think the outlook is bright for Public Health Officers to give continuing support to the program.

MR. WILSON: Miss Griffith is responsible for liaison with information services of OWI, War Food and Agriculture organizations and with national food industries. She has a special announcement to make in regard to the Disney film. Mr. Hambidge went to the Disney studios and conferred with them in this connection.

MISS GRIFFITH: I think you can see that I am the only person in the Nutrition Programs Branch subject to attack.

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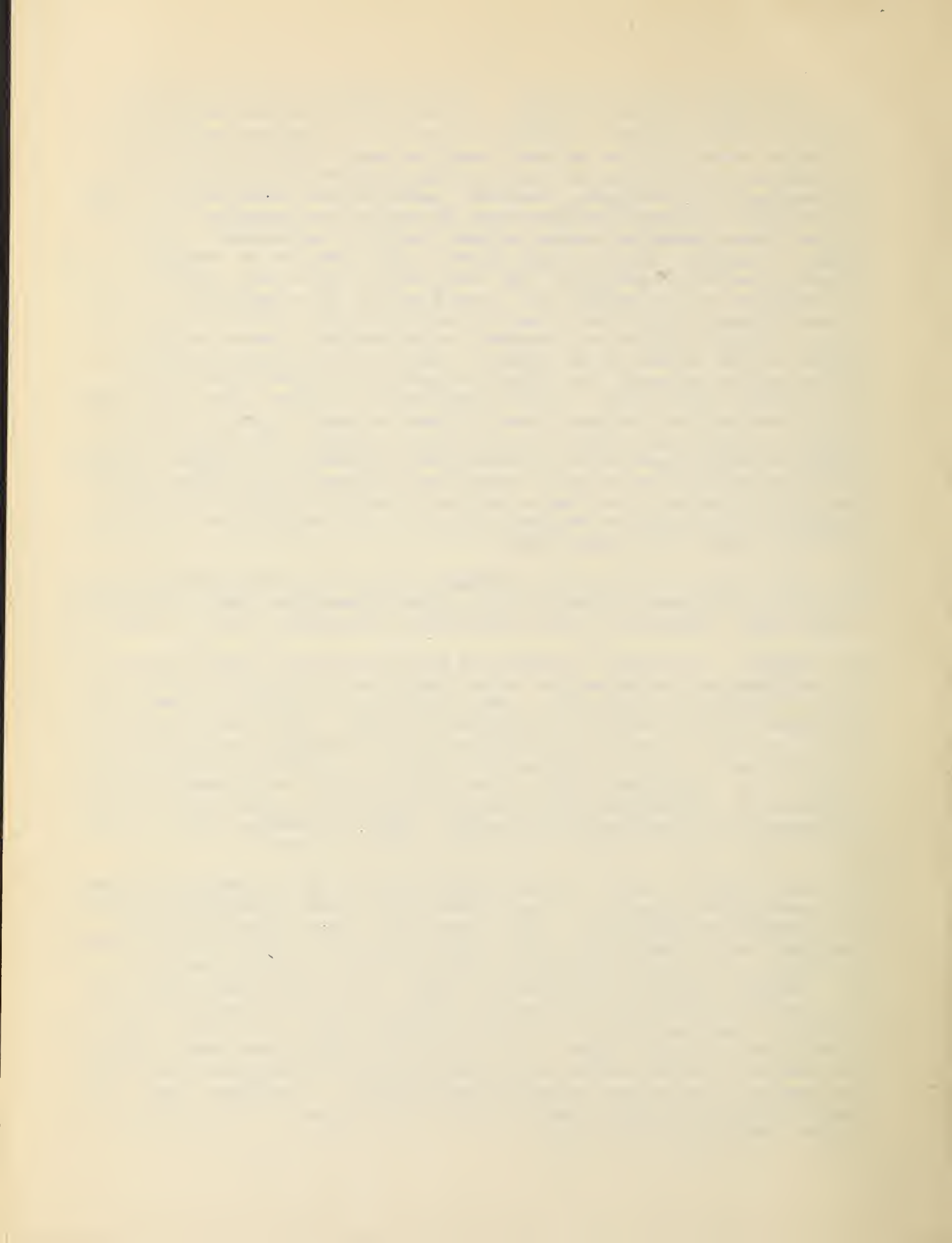
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I work with USDA, WFA, and OWI. We try to keep the nutrition messages which they carry as pure as possible. In working with national advertisers I keep the formula folder - the bible as I call it - on my desk and whenever a question comes up on how the chart should be used I refer to it and follow it strictly. We work also with about 30 organizations at the national level, representing civic, religious, fraternal, patriotic, and youth groups and find them willing to cooperate wholeheartedly in carrying our messages on nutrition in their house organs and through personal letters of endorsement to their members. Since our time is getting short, I would like for Mr. Hambridge to tell you about the Walt Disney film. The story board is before you. Previews (to which you will be invited) will be held on June 26 in Washington, New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. The films will be shown on June 28 in first run theaters, and afterwards in second or third run houses, a total of some 16,000 theaters. The preview in Washington will be particularly interesting. Mr. Wilson has agreed to preside. A movie short of Mr. Wilson will be shown preceding the previews in other cities. Of course we all know that the Government does not have the money to pay for a Disney picture, so it has been financed by the Cereal Institute. No mention of this appears on the picture and the Institute has requested that it remain anonymous in all promotion of the picture. Warner Bros. has provided the 35 mm films that will be available for theaters and are arranging for their distribution. Sixteen mm prints will be available through OWI film depositories two months after the theater distribution begins.

MR. WILSON: Most of you know Mr. Hambridge of Agricultural Research Administration, of the Department of Agriculture. He has done a great deal for nutrition in many ways. He made the trip to California in connection with the Disney film.

MR. HAMBIDGE: Mr. Penner, who wrote the script, has kept in touch with me from the beginning and throughout the various revisions. I checked with Dr. Sebrall and Dr. Stiebeling at each point. There have been difficulties in working out some spots, but they were all satisfactorily settled. When the script was completed, however, it ran to about 900 feet of film, though it was only supposed to be 650 feet. The last step has been cutting it. There are weak spots as a result of the cutting about which I have written Penner, and I expect they will be corrected. The pictures on the story board here are in black and white and of course do not give the effect of color. These few drawings, too, give only a vague idea of what the animated film will really be like.

The story starts out with a boy eating green apples and what happens when you eat something you shouldn't. Then it takes up the theme of the serious results of "something you didn't eat." First comes the story of scurvy and Lind's discovery that it could be cured by citrus fruits. Then beri-beri is portrayed and Bjorkman's discovery that unpolished whole grain rice will prevent it. (Mr. Hambridge continued to describe the story.) The sack of whole wheat here is probably a hangover from the early drawings, at the first meeting it was decided to make the label enriched flour simply because it is hard to find whole wheat flour in grocery stores. You will note that whole wheat bread is shown and the text stresses natural whole grain products. We will have problems of the available food supply changing on short notice - for instance, meat - but we can't hope to have the film keep up with such changes. It is impossible to foresee everything of that kind.



MISS BIRSEYE: Will there be any references to vitamin A?

MR. HAMBIDGE: When the picture was first planned a long list of vitamins was included, but when it had to be cut this had to be eliminated.

DR. SEBRELL: It just sets the background for what you meet in nutritional deficiencies.

MR. HAMBIDGE: I fully expect criticisms of details, but the net effect of the film is what will count.

MR. WILSON: Is Mark Graubard here? I believe he is going to tell us something about his work.

MR. LEUKHARDT: Dr. Graubard is out of town and couldn't attend the meeting this morning. I believe that most of you know that he works with labor. Labor has a Committee on Food and Nutrition. He has gotten into the National labor organization the importance of nutrition and it is going down to the people. The exhibit you see on display in the rear of the room was done after he made a trip to West Virginia with a representative of the United Mine Workers' Union. He has been recently helping local nutrition committees and local unions to work together on these matters.

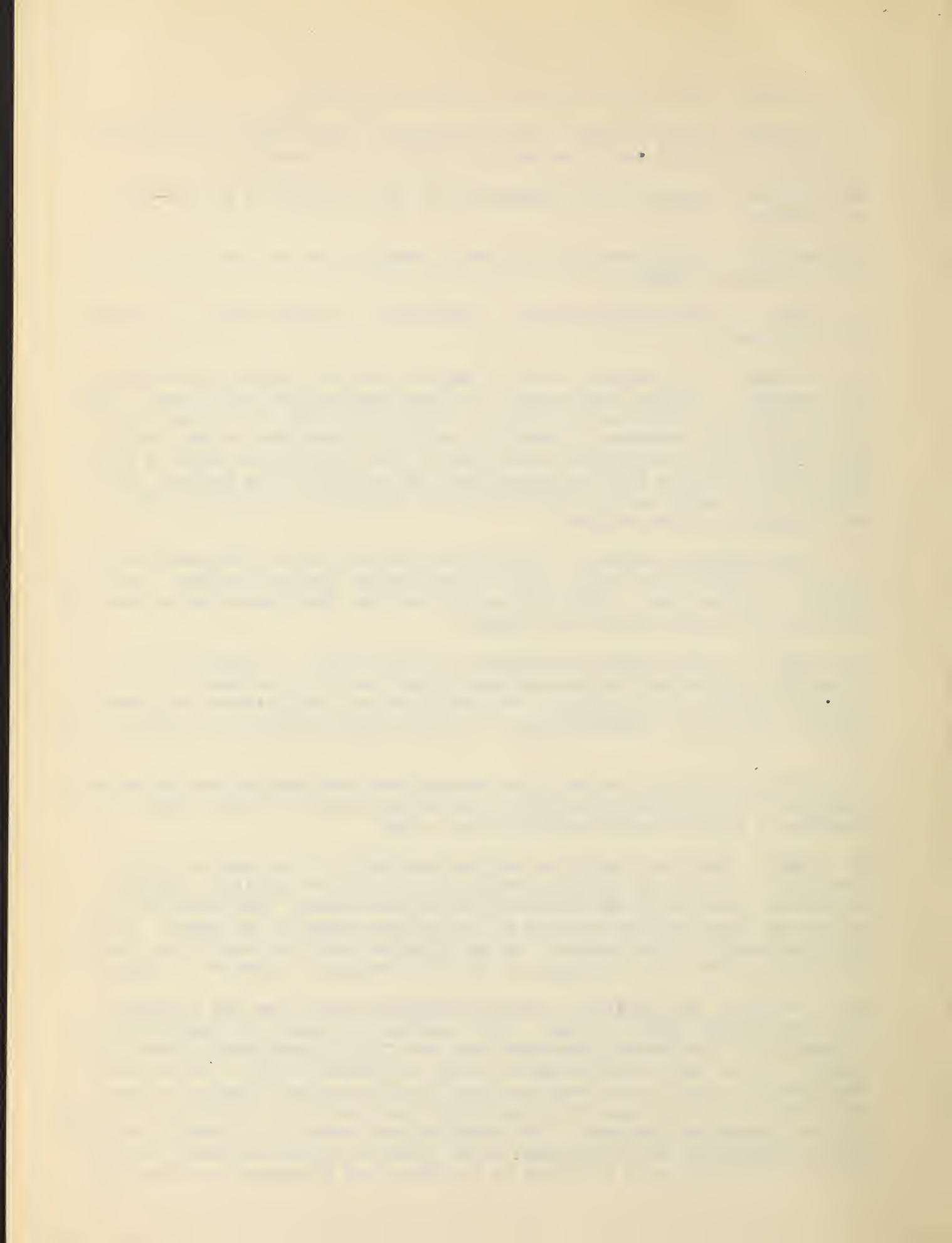
Miss Vaughan has asked me to speak about the work of Mrs. Williams who has charge of the work with Negro groups in the Special Services Division. She has recently returned from a field trip to Michigan and other States and we have been getting good reports from her work there.

MR. WILSON: We have asked the Committee on Food Habits to survey the food situation and make such recommendations as they see fit to us about the attitude and state of mind of the people. What should be our policy during the summer and what will be our recommendations? Dr. Mead could you tell us something about this?

DR. MARGARET MEAD: We are having our meeting next week and are getting materials together. The material is not yet in and since we have not done a survey for sometime, I will not have anything to say as yet.

MR. WILSON: There are really two services available to the State nutrition committees - one is the Special Services Division of the Nutrition Programs Branch and the other is the Nutrition Planning Committee. This committee is made up of those agencies who have action programs reaching the States. This is a good aspect of the program. We are delighted with the work of the Nutrition Planning Committee and I am going to ask Miss Reseltine to give us her report.

MISS RESELTINE: The Nutrition Planning Committee proceeds on the assumption that coordination begins at home. This committee is made up of representatives of agencies of the Federal Government who have field agents working with the States. It has been in existence now since the summer of 1943. Its activities have changed since it was first organized, when the primary function of the committee was to encourage utilizing local abundances. As a result of the changing food situation, the work of the committee has changed. By working together here in Washington the field agents of the agencies in the Nutrition Planning Committee have been able to go out to the States and interpret the major aims



of the National program and how the State agency with which they work can contribute most and get the most from the membership on the State nutrition committee. In other words, the Nutrition Planning Committee acts as a channel to nutrition committees both by mail and through visits of field agents. Like any good channel, we have a flood control system to keep the agencies from getting too much material. A subcommittee on studies reviews all the material of a factual nature and comments on its suitability for distribution to the States in full or in summary form.

Last year in mid-December, the field agents met in Washington for a 5-day working conference, and I emphasize the word working. We reviewed progress using the National conference that the President called in 1941 as a bench mark. Out of this December conference a tentative statement was evolved on the principles of coordination. We now find that there is great demand for this statement of principles. It will probably be desirable to release these recommendations with an adequate explanation of their limitations. At the December conference we also made recommendations concerning the major emphasis for nutrition programs in the future. There are 19 of these recommendations. They emphasize the need for programs which will make it possible to get the best diet from available foods through group action and not merely as a result of giving the individual knowledge of what food was best. We have profited by those studies showing what types of educational programs appeal and which fall flat. This decision to place more stress on availability and cost of foods was made before the Christmas present which OPA gave us. We were still more interested in tying nutrition committee work in with the food situation after we knew how much worse the food situation was than we had realized at the time of the conference. As a result of our request the American Home Economics Association prepared an issue of the Consumer Education Series Service devoted to the "Consumer in Wartime;" this has been distributed to the nutrition committees.

Throughout our work we have drawn upon the staff of other agencies represented on the coordinating committee. The American Home Economics Association publication would not have been possible without the cooperation of Mr. Browne here. I hope that the Nutrition Planning Committee can have closer and more systematic relationship with the broader committee proposed for the Inter-departmental Committee and that you can suggest activities to us. We are sure that there are many things that you can mention.

MR. WILSON: Are there any questions?

MISS SLOCUM: Are the tentative statements on principles of coordination available

MISS VAUGHN: They will be available next week.

MR. WILSON: We sent you a brief statement containing suggestions for an Inter-departmental Nutrition Committee built around the present committee as a nucleus. The reason was that this program has grown. There were many agencies on it at first. Then a small executive committee was formed. The executive committee has grown into the Nutrition Planning Committee which has worked well and is making very important contributions to the program.

We would like to have some discussion from you relative to this subject.

The idea was that possibly some closer relationship ought to be established with this group, calling it the Interdepartmental Nutrition Committee rather than the Coordinating Committee. The process of coordination has really developed in the Nutrition Planning Committee in view of the emphasis on the field programs. Most of the talking this morning has been done by those in the Branch and we would like to hear some comments from those of you here who are not members of the Nutrition Planning Committee.

Since no one has volunteered any comments, I will have to call on some of you. Dr. Nilson how about you?

DR. NILSON: We have not spent too much time in our work with this committee. We have found that information sent to us from this committee has been most useful to us. We do not have any counterpart in the States and through this committee we have been kept informed of what goes on at the Federal level. It has also given us outlets for our material. In the last few months we have added to our work in line with marketing developments. We now have three or four people in our commercial division. I hope that this Interdepartmental Committee will be extended and kept going as an information agency if not anything else. We did not know what the other Federal agencies were doing until this committee told us.

MR. WILSON: Miss Slocum will you tell us about what your agency finds.

MISS SLOCUM: I don't have any statement.

MR. WILSON: Is anyone here from the War Department?

CAPT. GLADYS OSBORNE: I am here for Col. Youmans and I have nothing to add.

MR. WILSON: I had thought about a closer tie-in with you who represent other agencies. Do you feel that it was useful to meet as we did last year? Should we continue to meet quarterly during the coming months? We thought we might work out a smaller committee to work with the Nutrition Planning Committee or the Nutrition Programs Branch on organization questions.

was it useful to meet as we did last year?

If there are no objections, we will consider the question of a larger council of this Interdepartmental Nutrition Committee and see what can be worked out. In 1935 the agencies in the Government worked better than any similar group that I am acquainted with. They worked in the Defense program and the President's conference on nutrition. All of these special war activities will be demobilized after the war. How fast and how it will be done is impossible to tell at this time. No one knows how long it will last and what will be the outcome. If the war in Europe terminates this summer there will still be a War Food Administration as long as the war lasts in the Pacific and there will be a problem in relation to the housewives. No one can foresee what the food supply will be until the 1945 crop is harvested. We have had 8 years of good weather and I hope that nature will do her part. But if we should have severe droughts or weather conditions are unfavorable in this country or abroad, it might affect the food situation so that the housewife will have to continue to adjust herself to the foods that will be available.

It is very difficult to say where and how we will move into the post-war period. Many of us feel that the State nutrition committees have been quite

successful in carrying out the assignment given them by Judge Jones and the State Councils of Defense. In most States the Civilian Defense program is about gone and in many States the nutrition committees are more active than any OCD committees at this time. In addition to carrying on the assignment of WFA, I hope that we have made important contributions to the nutrition program and we can work it out so that these permanent gains will not be lost and we can go on in the future with greater confidence because of the experience we have had in the past. We have addressed letters to the State committees and have received replies from them and they are planning to continue their work.

We have asked the Bureau of the Budget to make a study beginning with the President's conference both at the State and Federal level. I assume that this report will be primarily administrative in character. This will be made in the not-too-distant future. I express the feeling of the Nutrition Programs Branch and the Nutrition Planning Committee that the change from the war situation to the post-war will not be made too precipitous and that we will all have a chance to make adjustments to the peace-time in a way that will insure progress to the program and will not disrupt it.

The Senate is now considering the ratification of the constitution for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations submitted to the 44 nations which met at Hot Springs. Already 18 of these nations have adopted this plan and when 20 nations accept it the FAO will be set up. One of the functions of the FAO will be to promote and recommend national and international action to improve education and administration relating to nutrition. This may have some bearing on our work.

In looking to the future, what takes place as a result of the participation of the United States in the Hot Springs conference may play an important part. They recommended that as a part of the world organization for food and agriculture that among the major divisions there would be an organization in food and the health side of food. It recommended that because of the peculiar nature of nutrition and its relationship to industry and agriculture, there should be set up permanent committees which (according to my interpretation) would be similar to what we have in the Coordinating and Planning Committees. I anticipate that the Senate will ratify the FAO and out of that will grow some activity which will be carried out on a permanent basis.

MR. NILSON: A few years ago you put out a volume about the work of the various agencies and the Experiment Stations. I think we should put them out every year.

MISS HESELTINE: In this connection would it help to have an outline made out for each agency to follow in submitting their statement?

MISS DREIS: We will send that out to the agencies together with some other material next week.

MISS AMIDON: I suggest that your office get answers via mail to the approval of this plan that was mailed out.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 P.M.

Reported by:
BHGarringer
4/20/45

